

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Claudio DE GIROLAMO, et al.

Attorney Docket Q63003

Appln. No.: not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: February 16, 2001

For: **TRAFFIC PROTECTION MECHANISM FOR A FIBER OPTIC NETWORK
HAVING A LINEAR TOPOLOGY**



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

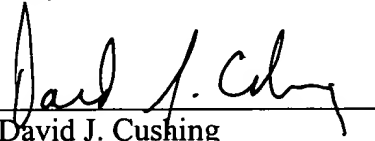
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

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waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Cushing", written over a horizontal line.

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